

Communities of Opportunity Initiative

Community Progress Report

January 1, 2010 – March 31, 2010

Due: Wednesday, March 31, 2010

Name of Community: Colquitt County

Local Champion:

Date:

Co-Op Strategies	List Measures of Success, (Or Barriers If Applicable)	Action Items Completed for Each Strategy	Cost Estimate	Provide a Brief Description of Issues and Action Items to be Addressed Next Quarter
Develop and implement a Community Involvement Plan for Colquitt County High School Achievement Center students	Colquitt County will improve its graduation rate from 59.6% to 61%.	Identified and recruited community partners Moultrie YMCA and Colquitt County Arts Center. Identified elective courses and enrichment activities community partners could provide that would fit into Georgia Performance Standards. Provided services to students. Designed evaluation plan and related instruments. Only positive reports thus far on student behavior and community partner satisfaction with project on top of reports of positive interaction of students with community partner patrons	\$1,850	Evaluation and organization and execution of wrap-up event for participating students
Utilize "Partners for Progress" report to identify target audience to market free tax services	Increase the number of individuals receiving EITC and Child Tax Credits. Decrease the number of individuals utilizing refund anticipation loans.	Marketed services countywide and located service delivery stations within walking distance of impoverished areas within Moultrie. Easily secured locations to provide services. Secured free advertising in local newspaper and shopper. Flyers were distributed free within utility bills and posted at many locations around the county, including churches. Large employers voluntarily distributed	\$600	None required

		program information to their staff.		
Develop and implement a Tax Prep Assistance program combined with a financial education component for target audience	Increase the number of individuals receiving EITC and Child Tax Credits. Decrease the number of individuals utilizing refund anticipation loans. One barrier to note without a ready solution: The IRS-based program had to be delivered in February when organizers see a greater need for services much earlier, especially if the goal is to reduce reliance on refund anticipation loans.	Identified and trained Moultrie Technical College students and faculty and Colquitt County Extension Service employee in IRS VITA delivery. Recruited volunteers from local banks, extension service and the University of Georgia to deliver financial education component, including credit and debt management. Recruited volunteers from the YMCA to schedule appointments. Designed evaluation plan and instruments. Marketed program. Delivered services. 22 volunteers went through the IRS certification training; All these local volunteers plus a group of University of Georgia students (also VITA-certified) participated in service delivery to nearly 70 taxpayers, most of whom said they were grateful for the free service. IRS agent expressed extreme satisfaction with the VITA site.	\$2,779	Evaluation (official report from IRS to arrive after April 15) and appreciation event for volunteers